

Produced by the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness
in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Livestock Diseases: A Threat to National Security

Satellite Conference

Wednesday, February 18, 2004, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Central Time

1:00-2:30 p.m., Eastern Time

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mountain Time

10:00-11:30 a.m., Pacific Time

Exotic animal diseases may enter the country through diverse means including globalization of trade, foreign visitors, citizens traveling in a foreign country, imported animals carrying disease vectors, migrating birds and insects, imported biologicals, military equipment and commercial aircraft and ships. To this we must now add the terrorist use of biological agents against the livestock industry.

The biological threat was greatly enhanced by the 1991 Gulf War, a series of terrorist incidents, the revelations of the Soviet bio-weapons program, and the anthrax letters of 2001 – all of which involved animal pathogens.

Recent outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Britain in 2001, and several high profile animal disease outbreaks elsewhere (e.g. Classical Swine Fever, several avian diseases), underscore the severe impact that these and other highly contagious diseases can have on the entire economy of a nation. Agriculture is a soft target. As the largest industry in the many countries including the U. S., intentional or accidental introduction of many animal diseases would have a devastating impact on the economy, far beyond the agricultural industry.

Food may also become the terrorist's vehicle of dissemination of biological agents. Biosecurity must be a concern from farm to table.

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Conference Details:

Target Audience: Public health professionals and their partners with whom they will need to communicate in a public health emergency.

Registration: www.adph.org/alphtn **Cost:** No cost.

CEU's: No CEU's for this satellite conference

Satellite Coordinates: C & Ku Band

Conference Materials: Posted on our website approximately one week before the program

Questions: alphtn@adph.state.al.us or 334-206-5618

Upcoming Conference:

Chemical Risk Assessment

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

12:00-1:30 p.m., Central Time

Register online: www.adph.org/alphtn

**This program will not be delivered as a live WebCast
but will be available as an archived WebCast beginning Thursday, February 19, 2004.
To view this webcast, visit the website: www.adph.org/alphtn**